

# UFOs OVER AUSTRALIA'S NORTH

*People around the world wonder whether UFOs are seen across Australia.*

*This collection of eyewitness accounts reveals that Australia indeed has a rich history of sightings and close encounters.*

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Extracted from his book  
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The year was 1979, a remarkable year for the number of UFO reports from the vast area of Australia's far north. The following two reports from that year are of special interest.

It was a dark, moonless, hot January night on Dave and Rita Turner's lonely cattle station on the Kimberley Plateau north of Halls Creek, Western Australia. Dave had driven off to visit a neighbouring property owner for a short meeting, while Rita stayed home and watched television. As she watched, the screen flickered badly. At the same time the cattle dogs began barking wildly. Rita could hear the cattle, horses and fowls going mad in their enclosures out behind the farmhouse.

Leaving the lounge room to investigate the disturbance, she could hear a high-pitched humming sound coming from outside the house. As she emerged from the back door she found the whole farmyard lit up by an ionised blue glow coming from above. As she looked up she was shocked to see a large circular object, at least 20 metres across, emitting the ionised blue glow while hovering directly over the farmhouse barely 30 metres above the roof. Then, as she stood speechless, the humming sound faded along with the ionised blue glow. The eerie craft grew dark and rose silently into the sky to be lost from sight.

Regaining her senses, Rita phoned up the neighbour and asked Dave to come home at once. She also phoned the police. By the time they arrived the next day, many other property owners over a wide area of the Kimberley had reported seeing the same mystery craft that night. Dave was mystified by the whole incident when Rita related her experience to the two startled constables who visited the station.

A week later she received an explanation from the authorities. The RAAF's conclusion? What Rita Turner had seen was nothing more than the "flashing blue light of a police car"!

Obviously she had been visited by the flying squad!

And what of Andy Quirk and his girlfriend Sandra in his four-wheel-drive Land-Rover in that February 1979? Driving late one night toward Derby, WA, their peaceful journey was interrupted by an ionised blue glow and accompanying high-pitched humming sound. Andy then lost control of his Land-Rover as it seemed to lift off the road and become airborne a good two feet off the ground. Terrified, Sandra screamed; Andy was panicking. Suddenly the glow and sound faded. The Land-Rover hit the ground with a thud, its occupants too shaken at first to move. As they recovered from their frightening experience, they could see in the distance in the moonlight, high up in the sky, a dark object flying off at great speed to the south.

Weird mutilations of cattle and horses were reported over a wide area of the Kimberley and coastal districts of Western Australia all the way down to Port Hedland between 1977 and 1980. The animals appeared to have been systematically dissected as if for scientific purposes. Numerous 'flying saucer' reports were also made in these districts throughout this period.

Aborigines claimed these strange craft and their "culture hero" occupants from the sky world had been here long ago in the Dreamtime and that men and lubras had been carried off by them when they left.

In 1933 an Aboriginal woman claimed she had been, how should we say, 'experimented with' by several strange, grey-skinned manlike beings out at Lonely Discovery Well. Her tribe had been frightened off when a "large shining egg" suddenly descended from the sky and flew slowly above them in broad daylight. The woman claimed she had been "stunned" by an object wielded by one of several beings who emerged from the "egg". She had been carried aboard and strapped to a shining table. Around her, the craft's interior was aglow.

The woman later related her tale to stockmen who laughed at her. But then, wide-scale acceptance in the wake of the great UFO 'flaps' of the late-1940s and 1950s onward was yet to come.

Several geologists exploring likely mineral deposits in the Ord River district east of Wyndham in mid-1982 claimed to have seen, in broad daylight, no less than six shining silver saucer-shaped craft flying in formation inland from the coast and heading south at phenomenal speed.

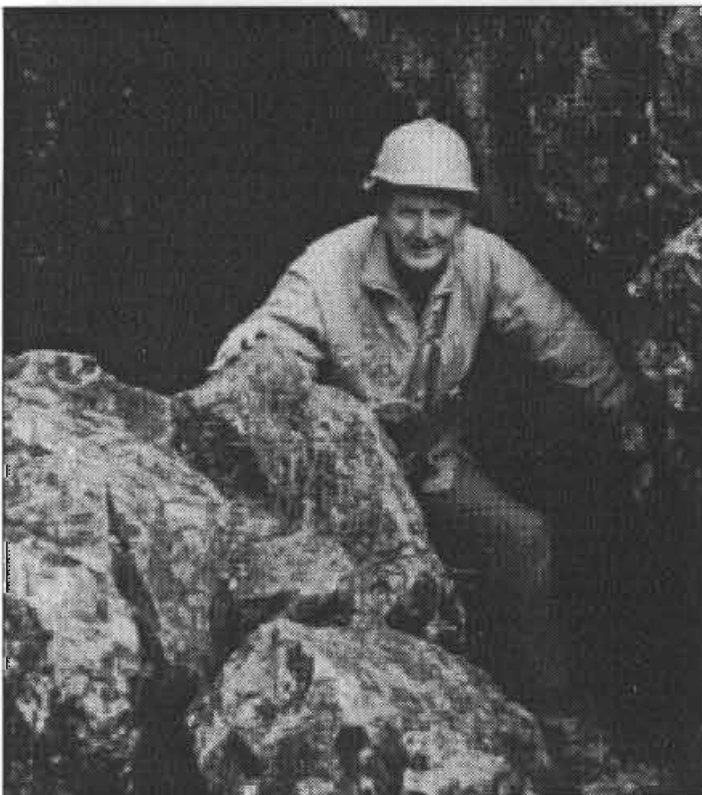
Several ten-metre-wide, circular, deep-burnt depressions were found in the South Esk tableland area south of Halls Creek in July 1982. Was there a link between these 'saucer depressions' and the Ord River sighting?

The Northern Territory continues to be the scene of many UFO reports, including the 'close encounter' of Terry Downs, a part-time stockman, dingo-shooter and prospector. One day in 1982, Terry, then 39 years old, was camped in the Giles Creek area near Victoria River, south of Victoria River Downs, when he saw a blinding silver shining object appear at low level from behind hills and land rapidly with a deafening roaring sound about 200 metres from his four-wheel-drive Land-Rover. Rocks and dust seemed to explode in all directions as it landed.

Terry had been fossicking some distance from his vehicle. Panicking, he threw aside his gold dish and tools and ran for the cover of nearby rocks. When he next looked, the craft had become airborne a few yards above the ground and had moved to hover above his Land-Rover. The object was about 10 metres across and, as he could see by now, saucer-shaped.

Before he knew it, the craft was hovering right above him, enveloping him in a hot draught.

"I was too dazed to make out any markings or features if any, and the object then picked up speed and flew off across the countryside to the north-west at low level, vanishing into the hills," he said later.



Author Rex Gilroy on a 1992 field trip, exploring more of Australia's mysteries.

A few weeks after this incident, many townspeople saw two bright, silvery, glowing objects flying high over Tennant Creek from west to east around midnight.

One night in 1974, onlookers reported seeing three identical objects flying high above the Earth along the Gulf of Carpentaria coast, following the coastline from Burketown in Queensland to Limmen Bight and beyond.

In 1984, three campers saw a 30-metre-wide silvery object from two kilometres away as it landed on the summit of a tall hill in the Bulman Gorge area of Arnhem Land Reserve. As the men approached the craft, it began to rise into the air and then proceeded vertically until it was lost in overhead clouds.

One morning around 2 am, Peter Acton was driving his car on the Stuart Highway from Tennant Creek to Bonney Wells when he suddenly realised he was being paced by some overhead craft emitting a yellowish-white glow. Mystified, he stopped. It was then that he looked out of his driver's window to see above him a yellowish-white glowing circular craft, 20 metres across, its glow illuminating the lonely landscape around the vehicle. Peter was dumbfounded.

"The craft just hovered silently above me. I could not detect any windows or other features. Then the glow faded and the craft rose silently into the air and coasted off across the hills to the east.

"I drove on toward my destination at Wauchope only to find the road blocked by a couple of trucks loaded with cattle, the drivers talking together on the roadside, looking across the plain at three strange lights moving erratically among the hills in the distance. I joined them and related what had just happened to me. It appeared the craft that I had met up with was probably one of those in the distance. The men told me the lights had followed them as they were heading south together along the highway but kept clear of their trucks, flying parallel with them on their right-hand side about one kilometre distant before crossing the highway at great speed ahead of them, heading north-west to where they were now," he told me later.

Many Northern Territory UFO reports have concerned objects seen close to the Queensland border. That state is a rich source of ufological material stretching back generations, and it is to these reports that we now turn.

"It was hovering about half a mile above trees and looked something like a big straw hat in appearance."

That was how workers at the Nestlé chocolate factory at Gympie, north of Brisbane, described the large object they saw over the town early in June 1978. Three employees on their lunch break first sighted the object when they walked outside to sit in the factory grounds. It was then that they sighted the mysterious object toward the north-west of the factory and about two miles away. They later said it was about the size of a house.

Raising the alarm among other factory workers, the factory grounds were soon filled with other employees watching the strange craft. Then, moving off toward the north-west, the object increased speed until it was soon lost from view. A few days later, farmers in western Queensland also reported having seen the same object.

About the same period as the Gympie UFO mass sighting, Mr Lionel Fifield was driving with two friends on the Moggil Road in the St Lucia area of Brisbane. The time was about 2 am when they spotted two blue-red lights moving in a zig-zag fashion across the sky from the east (Kenmore district) toward St Lucia. The lights hovered, then began to fade, then slowly brightened again and resumed movement. The lights stayed in the sky, moving about until around 6 am when they finally disappeared.

Queensland seems singled out from all the vast expanse of Australia as a major area for unidentified-flying-object activity

(with the notable exception of the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney). Major parts of Queensland for UFO activity include Cairns, Tully, Rockhampton and Gympie, where numerous sightings have been reported frequently.

In the course of an expedition to far north Queensland during May-June 1978, my wife Heather and I interviewed many people who had reported seeing UFOs. And, as a surprise finale to our trip, our homeward journey followed hot on the heels of a UFO 'fly-past' which commenced around Cairns and did not abate until after our return home to Katoomba in the Blue Mountains.

Here, then, are some of the many reports I have gathered in the course of my Queensland investigations.

Around May 1957, Mr Tom Robinson, a Cairns sugar cane farmer, had an experience which he recalls vividly. The time was about 7.30 pm on a Sunday night. He was standing outside on the verandah enjoying the cool air after a very hot day.

Tom was then called to the telephone. As he lifted the receiver, his father suddenly called out to say he was watching a brilliant starlike light moving across the sky from the south.

Tom's father lined up the strange light with a verandah post and realised that it was moving toward him. There was no sound coming from the object, but it became larger as it approached the farm and was seen to emit a flame. The object began to pick up speed and then turned at a 90-degree angle and floated eastward across the farm.

Tom was still using the telephone when his father called out again, "Come quickly, there's a plane on fire," which was what Tom's father at first believed it was.

The mysterious object had by now landed behind a canefield on the east side of the Robinson property, between cane and a stand of timber on a headland (i.e., the cleared area around the outside of a canefield). There was still no sound.

As Tom and his father waited speechlessly outside their house to see what the object would do next, it suddenly rose like "a big flickering full Moon. It rose to about 20 feet above the cane, started to move in a north-west direction and dropped again. It rose again and dropped a second time. Each time it had risen up, it appeared to be a little bit smaller," Tom observed.

The entire area seemed to have been set alight by the strange object casting a glow over the canefield and the Robinson house. Tom's two dogs appeared and, thinking that the object was a car coming toward the house, they ran outside, barking.

By now the object was 80 metres away. Then the object suddenly dropped once more into the canefield and rose again. By this time it had become very small. It drifted up like a balloon toward the north-west and disappeared.

Tom later investigated the whole area but could find no trace of the object's landing.

Mysterious lights and objects in the sky have been repeatedly sighted in recent years throughout the Cairns-Atherton-Gordonvale districts. In fact, those areas have a history of UFO activity stretching back many years.

Mr R. G. Smith of Longreach, near Winton in western Queensland, was driving a tractor on his farm one midnight in 1966. He was in the process of excavating a dam for his cattle when above, in the clear starry sky, he saw a bright starlike light descend toward him. The object came down very close to him

and, after hovering above him, headed away in another direction.

About the same period in that district, another farmer, also driving a tractor on his property late at night, saw the same object descend from the sky toward him.

As the bright starlike object approached his tractor, the farmer, sensing danger, left the tractor and ran across the field in the direction of his house. The object was seen to hover over his tractor before rising high into the air and flying off at a phenomenal speed to the west.

That year, 1966, a considerable number of 'saucer rings' were discovered in the Tully, Cairns and Innisfail districts, prompting the Department of Primary Industries to send an official to inspect these circular arrangements.

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Despite traces of radioactivity around some of the sites, and other mysterious 'calling cards' of the 'visitors', the official explanation released to the media was that the circular formations had been made by hordes of migrating ducks! Where have we heard that one before?

While in Cairns I interviewed Mrs D. Teluk who related to me the following story which took place about mid-1977 on her husband's cattle station near Charters Towers.

The time was around 7 pm on a dark night when their farm hand, a

man named "Rolley", had been costeening ground with a bulldozer for mineral traces on their property. As he was some distance from the farmhouse, he had a motorbike nearby the tractor. He finished his work and then rode his bike back toward the farmhouse.

On the way he passed thick scrub, and there he caught sight of a strange object amid the trees. In the darkness he could only discern that it was a dark object emitting flashing red and blue lights. He started off again on his bike, leaving the area in haste to tell the Teluks what he had seen.

"He looked white as a sheet," Mrs Teluk said of Rolley relating his sighting to her husband Jerry.

Jerry then returned with Rolley in the family Toyota to the spot where Rolley had been, but found nothing. However, over the next few days they learnt that other farmers in the region had also reported seeing the same object flying over the countryside.

Did a UFO land in a scrub-surrounded farming property outside Mount Gravatt, south of Brisbane, in 1970? That is the question which still puzzles Mr and Mrs R. Gordon, the property's owners.

One morning, Mr Gordon went to inspect cattle in a corner paddock of his three-acre property when he discovered three strange circular markings in the ground, each six feet apart from the others in a triangular formation. The circles were two feet wide, and the ground around the outside of each circle was burnt.

Mr Gordon called his wife to have a look, and both agreed that the marks had not been there when they were rounding up stock at the same spot the afternoon before. Neighbours later reported having seen a strange glowing object in the night sky moving over the Mount Gravatt area.

In 1961, one night around 9 pm, Mrs Gay Stewart was standing outside her house, situated on a farming property at Cunnamulla in south-west Queensland, when she saw a red-coloured glowing object the size of a star coming from the south. It seemed to "shoot across the sky northward at a phenomenal speed", as she said later.

The mystery object sped toward the northern horizon, then stopped and remained stationary for a few minutes before moving off again at a slow pace. Mystified, Mrs Stewart (who happened to be on her own at the time) watched as the red-glowing object made several circular movements across the sky, taking a couple of hours to do so before moving southward, finally disappearing in that direction.

One night in January 1977, Mr Trevor Jordan was out in scrub on a pigshooting trip near Toowoomba. He was standing in a clearing of brigalow scrub when he sighted a bright red object "the size of a football" at a distance of half a mile to the east.

The object changed to green, then into lemon. It then began pulsating and came down to treetop level. Trevor observed the strange object for 10 minutes until it flew off slowly northward.

This was not Trevor's first sighting, as he had spotted a UFO one day in 1968.

"I was at Somerset Dam up from Esk on the Brisbane River late one afternoon, and the weather was cloudy and grey with rain threatening.

"I was setting up my camera on a tripod for the purpose of photographing the reflection of the shoreline trees in the water. I was using Agfa CT18 slide film. After having shot the photographs I wanted of the dam—which included some of the far end of the dam with the sky in the background—I packed up and went home.

"However, days later when I received my slides in the mail, I discovered upon viewing them that in the long-distance shots I had taken of the far end of the dam, one slide showed seven disc-shaped greenish objects in the sky overhead. A ufologist who examined the slide estimated the objects to be about 30 feet wide and 'perhaps scouting saucers from a much larger mother ship'."

During a visit to Gympie, north of Brisbane, in April 1976, I was fortunate to obtain reports of a number of UFO incidents in that district. The Gympie district has been a veritable hotbed of UFO activity going back many years.

In 1961, one morning around 3 am Mrs Waller was standing on her verandah at Wolvi, a few kilometres east of Gympie. Her home was situated at the base of Wolvi Mountain, facing east. A light appeared over the mountain, so bright that it lit up the whole area "like dawn over the mountain", as Mrs Waller said later.

She described the object as being like a "fluorescent globe", a very bright white light. The object hovered for three minutes above the Waller farm before moving fairly fast in a northerly direction, returning soon after to sink down behind Wolvi Mountain.

Tin Can Bay, on the coast some 35 miles east of Gympie, has also had its fair share of unidentified flying objects.

Mr Neil Gerard lived at Tin Can Bay around 1959 when a UFO was said to have landed upon the roof of a house late one night, leaving the roof paint burnt.

The UFO had first appeared in the sky as a shooting flarelike object. It descended onto the roof emitting a starlike glow and then immediately took off again into the sky.

Neil Gerard has had two UFO experiences. His first was with a friend, Nell Starlberg, while driving to Brisbane on the main highway one night in 1976. At about 7 pm they sighted a glowing, dull gold-coloured object which appeared to be stationary and about a mile above a roadside pine forest. The location was 35

miles north of Brisbane. Shortly after they sighted the object, it vanished.

In April 1978, by now having moved to Gympie, Neil Gerard was standing outside in the backyard of his house about 11 pm. He was watering flowers in his garden when he saw a bright light in the sky to the north. It remained stationary for up to half an hour before moving away southward.

Another interesting UFO report from Gympie, a few years before Neil Gerard's 1978 sighting, concerns the apparent disintegration of a mysterious flying object, as witnessed by many people.

A large silvery object was spotted hovering stationary, high in the midday sky above the clouds, when suddenly it appeared to explode. A search of the surrounding region failed to recover any fragments of this mysterious craft.

At Tin Can Bay in 1974, a saucer-shaped UFO emitting a starlike glow, and with a dome on top and lights around its side, flew over Crab Creek startling many night-time fishermen. The craft hovered over the inlet, forcing the fishermen to leave the area in a panic. After 10 minutes the UFO rose into the air and left the area.

Back in 1949, Mrs Z. Kay was a patient in a Gympie hospital. During the early hours of the morning while it was still dark, she happened to be awake when she saw, through the window next to her bed, a glowing red light hovering close to the ground.

Although some distance away, the object was far too big for an aeroplane. It began moving away from the north-west to the south-east and increased speed as it did so. Mrs Kay watched the

object through the window as it seemed to stop in mid-air for a moment, and then resumed flying until it disappeared rapidly over the horizon.

Rockhampton, like Gympie, has a long history of excessive UFO activity. Mount Archer, which overlooks the city of Rockhampton to the east, has been the scene of numerous sightings of strange lights in the sky and other phenomena.

On 7th August 1978 a group of white, glowing objects was seen flying around the Rockhampton area for 20 minutes. For a time they seemed to hover over Mount

Archer before flying off northward.

During 1968, a mysterious white light flew over Rockhampton one midnight. The same object headed south to Maryborough where Keith Lohrisch and his wife Julie saw it as they were driving toward their home in Maryborough. They stopped the car and got out for a better look. Deciding it to be a UFO, they 'hot-footed' it home where they rang the police. They were told that at least another 10 people had seen the mysterious light.

These are just a few of the estimated thousands of sightings to have occurred over the last few decades in northern Australia! ∞

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